

The Columbus Courier

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War Romance Centers About Signal Corps

Radio Telegraphy Gives News of Life and Death "Somewhere in Mexico."

Under the prosaic title of the United States Army Signal Corps most of the romance of present day warfare is hidden. For this branch of the service includes the work of the wireless stations and of aviation. All the dramatic efforts of the part of the officers of the first Aero Squadron and much of the information as to what is transpiring during the punitive expedition in Mexico is the result of the Signal Corps operations.

War as played in 1916 is a grim and ugly affair in most of its aspects. In many of its zones the glitter and beauty of war as read of in romantic history, where brave knights, cavaliers and warriors went forth to battle and by individual effort win fame and fortune, has passed away with the invention of wholesale slaughter, machine made murder as it were. This is not an overdrawn description of the conduct of such affairs in the lands over the seas. Plagues have been banished, and no general would now suggest finding a white plume in his cap for his men to follow. He would probably have his sanity investigated if he even suggested what was once a brilliant example of personal heroism.

But although the signal corps has eliminated necessity for any such gallery play, and though its title may be misleading, for signalling is the smallest part of work of this efficient branch of war work the telegraphy of war is a vital and thrilling part of the game, so quietly so instantly is the work performed, that much of the credit of the performance is not given because there are no heralds to proclaim what is going on; the members being each content to do his part, because it is part of his code to do or to die in the doing of his duty.

But to the thinker, romance is a long way from dead, when one studies the matter of wireless telegraphy, as radio telegraphy is popularly called. This magical force has conquered the elements an annihilated distance and time. Its symbols reach far over river and mountain and country side and bring knowledge of the happenings in the far away heart of Mexico into the army base here, almost in the twinkling of an eye.

The war department would be powerless to command, to direct or to counsel the officers at the

base in or the field without radio telegraphy. Commanders at the point of striving would not be able to ask for supplies, to report accidents or fights, or any of the thousand and one items of interest passing between army base and punitive headquarters, except for the work of radio telegraphy. Where there is need of haste, life and death hang on the messages radiating through the blue arch over Mexico and many parts of the border.

Almost lair-like is the record of moods and emotions flashing through the ether from our Radio Telegraphic station at the army base at Columbus, New Mexico.

In tabloid form all the things of life and death are passing through this important station, this station which never sleeps is always listening for calls from any point of the compass. The wireless radio telegraphers are always "on the job."

Almost in the space of a deep breath San Antonio can "get" Columbus, in turn the message from "Fighting Freddy" could be speeded on its way to the heart of Mexico, or sent flying faster than wind can travel to San Diego, California. All these points are in communication with the simple looking mast that looms so silently above the camp beyond the railroad track. The fastest sort of train would take more than twenty-four hours to travel where the message over the aerial is practically instantaneous.

And this powerful station throwing its messages so far and wide doing such valiant service in this long drawn out struggle on foreign territory called the expeditionary force in Mexico, in a simple affair, seemingly, the equipment sprouting out from a motor tractor, which is really the whole works except the mast and wires. This station was brought to Columbus under its own power about the time this town sprang into first page position, after the visit of Bencho Villa. It took eight men just ten minutes and eight seconds to set up the mast, get the wires out and be ready for business; pretty lively stage setting, one can easily believe.

Communication was thus established with Fort Sam Houston, and the next move in the game of war was to open up Mexico to the United States via radio telegraphic route. Casas Grandes was the first point of foreign land laid under tribute, as far as the air was concerned.

There was some wireless equipment stored here or rather at a ranch near here, but when looked over it was found to have gathered more than a fair share

Columbus is Soon to Have an Ice Plant

A. Frederickson Decides to Reduce "High Cost of Ice." Plant to be Completed Soon.

Columbus is about to rejoice in the possession of a plant for the manufacture of ice, and with that necessity at the prohibitive price it has recently commanded, this is good news indeed.

North of the railroad track and west of the grade, but near enough to the center of town for convenience the new industry will be located. The plant will cost probably little less than fifteen thousand dollars, and it is hoped at the present rate of progress that the plant will be in running order before the end of summer depends upon the thirsty town.

Enterprise of this sort is what Columbus needs, and there is little doubt that Mr. Frederickson, who has the larger vision necessary to invest the large sum of money in the enterprise will find Columbus appreciative in a practical way.

For Sale.—Wagon and team complete, ready for use, at a bargain. Inquire at Courier of the

of desert sand. The delicate parts being almost out of commission by accumulated dust of months. But the men of the signal corps are not to be balked in their work by any thing like hopeless looking mechanism, and after strenuous work, they soon brought order out of the chaos and all parts were working as if just from the maker. Then the machinery, batteries, and thousand and one parts were installed in the body of a motor truck, which thus became a small but very powerful station on wheels and under its own power it was off for "some where in Mexico" at a rapid clip and is still doing valiant service where it is most needed. This pioneer in Mexican territory now has several substations, though that is not quite the right term, for each station is capable of standing alone, and all can talk to either coast of the United States. These movable stations are called radio tractors and they are doing most efficient work everywhere they are set up. Each of the tractors, carry for the wireless mast long light poles built in imitation of bamboo, light and strong and hollow and each being a little smaller than its fellow so that any height can be attained by (Continued on page 4)

Chautauqua Date July Ninth to Thirteenth

Western Chautauqua System Will Give Series of Entertainments Lasting Five Days

A series of high class entertainments under the popular title of Chautauqua will be given in Columbus for five days, beginning July 9th. This series will include the Musical Art Company, with Miss Marjorie Bremer, whose impersonations are so well known, assisted by Miss Flora Morse, soprano soloist, and Miss Frances Biese, the cellist.

The Rev. William Scribner, who comes with a reputation of being a spicy and entertaining speaker who discusses the vital questions of our times and gives much food for thought to his hearers.

The Smith Williams Entertainers will give a varied program of music, classic poems and examples of dramatic expression of a high grade.

Francis J. Gable is one of the most popular among the young lecturers, and the audience is promised much to amuse and to instruct from this fourth day entertainment.

Vivian Newkirk and her luminous company, which form a type company of great excellence are too well known to require an extensive press endorsement. The women of this well-balanced aggregate include in addition to Miss Newkirk, the piano soloist and accompanist, Miss Mary Cawley, a sixteen year old artist, whose vocal excellency promises a brilliant future. The Parsons Sisters, violinists, and Miss Florence Jack, flutist, stand near the head of their profession and this work will doubtless prove a musical treat to all who are so fortunate as to hear them during the coming engagement.

This Western Chautauqua system is looking the Great Southwest, and Columbus being now of national importance these artists have been persuaded to loop into their itinerary this appreciative town.

It is hoped that everyone with taste for the good and the instructive will take in the entire course, for it is so varied and so well balanced that each event is well worth while.

Court Proceedings

A number of cases have been tried in Judge Peach's court this week. There is never a day that court does not convene though when we consider the thousands of people here, the criminal cases are comparatively small.

R. Malone, colored, was found guilty of selling booze and was bound over to await the action of the grand jury. In default of making a \$1500 bond he was taken to the jail at Deming. John Blatcher was assessed a fine in the sum of \$25 for resisting an officer. Three women were charged with disorderly conduct and were asked to pay fines ranging from \$5 to \$25.

In a complaint made against William Henn by William Gamble the defendant was found not guilty. He was charged with taking a small grindstone from the home of Gamble during his absence. The grindstone was found in his possession, though Henn had been requested by Gamble to look after his property while he was away and the defendant stated that the grindstone had been taken for safe-

Moonlight Entertainment

The moonlight entertainment given at the home of Mrs. J. S. Anderson by the Woman's Guild of Trinity Mission for the building fund of the proposed church was a great success. More than twenty dollars was cleared by the enterprise of the ladies and thanks to the support of their friends, and more important still everyone had a pleasant and cordial time.

One of the most attractive features of this program was the music all through the evening of the 11th. The band, under the able direction of Chief Musican Heffelfield. The entire neighborhood enjoyed this concert as well as those at the Guild social. Special thanks are due also to the General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. who loaned the benches from the hall.

Prettily decked booths were presided over by the members of the Guild including Misses Stahney and Anderson and Blair, and Mesdames Kniffin and Peters who served ice cream and cake, and home made candy, coffee and lemonade and fifty seven varieties of delicious sandwiches.

All who were present at this event hope the ladies will repeat the entertainment for their benefit in the near future.

President May Visit Columbus

Feeling that Columbus is now of national importance, and believing that an invitation to visit it when our Chief Executive comes to Elephant Butte Dam would be appreciated in Washington the Courier as representative of Columbus extend such an invitation.

The following communication from the White House at the Federal Capitol speaks for itself.

The White House, Washington, D. C. June 16th, 1916.

My dear Mr. Parks: The President has received your kind letter of June 12th and deeply appreciates the cordial invitation which you are good enough to extend to him. He will be glad to keep your wishes in mind in connection with any itinerary that may be determined upon.

Sincerely Yours, (Signed) W. Taft, Secretary to the President. G. E. Parks, Editor, Columbus Courier, Columbus, New Mexico.

keeping and that it had been found in the road in front of his house.

Civic League Formed

The Ladies of Columbus met at the M. E. Church this afternoon to formulate plans for a civic league for the betterment of Columbus.

There was a large and enthusiastic attendance and election of officers was the first move toward systemizing matters.

Mrs. Peters, Presided. The nomination of officers was in the hands of a committee consisting of Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Johnson, was elected president; Mrs. J. C. O'Neill of Courier Vice Pres.; Mrs. Clapp Treasurer, and Mrs. Kniffin, Secretary. In the absence of Mrs. Johnson it is the wish of the League that Jean Cabell O'Neill act in her stead, and she is further empowered to

Border City Honored by Visit From Gov.

States Chief Executive spent Friday Here—Accompanied by Prominent Citizens of Deming

Governor William C. McDonald accompanied by a distinguished party of politicians and representatives of the press was guest of Columbus for the afternoon.

This is the first visit of the popular Executive to Columbus since the rail of March 9th, and great interest in the town of Columbus still bearing as it does so vividly, the scars of that fatal night, was evinced by the entire party.

The Army Base with its orderly streets and impressive exhibits in the way of "preparedness," was visited in auto and on foot by the members of the party. The police tent offered its hospitality to the Governor and suite before the Army had a chance to entertain, and there a lunch, in most approved army style, abundance of good food, and plenty of table embellishments such as linen and glass, was enjoyed by all.

Some interesting photographs of the U. S. Army Base were taken, by courtesy of the officers, and will long remain souvenir of a pleasant day in Columbus, New Mexico.

The party included, in addition to the Governor, Sheriff W. C. Simpson, Assistant District Attorney J. S. Vaught, Mayor M. A. Nordhaus, Attorney R. F. Hamilton, County Clerk C. E. Hughes, D. M. Pryor and Editor E. E. Vailandigham of the Deming Headlight, and Editor Willard E. Hold of the Deming Graphic.

Mrs. Hoppe Entertains

The Ladies Aid were delightfully entertained by Mrs. Hoppe at her ranch last Wednesday. Two autos carried the Columbus members of the society to the delightful home where dinner was awaiting them, and pleasant hours were spent in conversation, and games on the lawn under the trees which make this a garden spot.

Among the ladies from Columbus were Mesdames Dean, Rickle, Taylor, Thomas, Coleman, Peach, Yarbrough, Ballenger, and Elliott and her guest Mrs. Anderson from El Paso.

Mrs. Hoppe was assisted in the reception of her guests by her daughters, Cola and Ruby. The day will long be remembered as a happy episode in the annals of the Ladies Aid.

For Sale.—Fresh Jersey cow, George T. Peters.

Wanted to Purchase.—Second hand automatic or Colt 45 single action. Apply Hoxter Hotel 12 o'clock noon.

FOR RENT.—A neat two-room adobe house, with large porch, stable and poultry house. House furnished. J. A. MOORE.

call a meeting for the passage of by-laws and the arrangement of a working board or committee. The women of Columbus believe there is much they can do towards beautifying the town, and in helping the men, including the members on the board of trustees in enforcing laws for the good of all. A general clean up campaign is the first thing planned.

The Store That's Always Busy

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFERING INCLUDING

Cantaloupes Grape Fruit Oranges
Bananas Strawberries Green Beans
Green Peas New Cabbage New Potatoes
Radishes, Lettuce, Turnips, Onions, Sweet Potatoes

SAM RAVEL

COLUMBUS, New Mexico